

## Assembly Bill No. 2196

### CHAPTER 87

An act to amend Sections 2054 and 2474 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to podiatry.

[Approved by Governor June 28, 2002. Filed with  
Secretary of State June 30, 2002.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2196, Lowenthal. Podiatrists.

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, makes it a misdemeanor for a person who is not licensed as a physician and surgeon to use certain words, letters, and phrases or any other terms that imply that he or she is authorized to practice medicine as a physician and surgeon. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for a person who is not licensed to practice podiatric medicine to use certain words, letters, and phrases or any other terms that imply that he or she is a podiatrist.

This bill would specify that a person who is licensed to practice podiatric medicine may use the phrases "doctor of podiatric medicine," "doctor of podiatry," and "podiatric doctor" or the initials "D.P.M.," and the person would not be in violation of the act.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 2054 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2054. (a) Any person who uses in any sign, business card, or letterhead, or, in an advertisement, the words "doctor" or "physician," the letters or prefix "Dr.," the initials "M.D.," or any other terms or letters indicating or implying that he or she is a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner under the terms of this or any other law, or that he or she is entitled to practice hereunder, or who represents or holds himself or herself out as a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner under the terms of this or any other law, without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate as a physician and surgeon under this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A holder of a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate to practice podiatric medicine may use the phrases "doctor of podiatric medicine," "doctor of podiatry," and "podiatric doctor," or the initials "D.P.M.," and shall not be in violation of subdivision (a).

SEC. 2. Section 2474 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2474. Any person who uses in any sign or in any advertisement or otherwise, the word or words “doctor of podiatric medicine,” “doctor of podiatry,” “podiatric doctor,” “D.P.M.,” “podiatrist,” “foot specialist,” or any other term or terms or any letters indicating or implying that he or she is a podiatrist, or that he or she practices podiatric medicine, or holds himself out as practicing podiatric medicine or foot correction as defined in Section 2472, without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate as provided for in this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

